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California State Senate

SENATOR
TONY STRICKLAND
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES
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RENEWABLE ENERGY
THE CENSUS

January 19, 2011

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Re: Letter of support for Ojai Valley Trail fish barrier removal project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to request that you endorse an application by the County of Ventura for funding under the State Coastal Conservancy grant program. These funds are needed by the County in order to make critical improvements to the San Antonio Creek Crossing on the Ojai Valley Trail.

The citizens of this County have enjoyed using this safe and beautiful trail for many years, and have always found it to be a tremendous asset to the County trail system. It offers miles along a completely open and leisurely pathway traveling from the City of Ojai south to Ventura and beyond. The views along the trail are often spectacular and there is plenty of shade and spots to pause and rest should one so choose.

Following the winter storms of 2005 it became clear that the trail had suffered serious damage. A portion of the San Antonio Creek crossing had been washed out taking the equestrian trail and a portion of the bicycle trail with it. The remaining trail portion along this stretch has been reduced to less than 6 feet wide and is now barely wide enough for one horse and rider to pass. The repair of the trail is desperately needed and I urge the award of these grants to the County of Ventura to restore and protect a valuable part of the trails system in Ventura County.

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of this project. Please consider selecting this project for funding. I am hopeful that the improvements will soon take place.

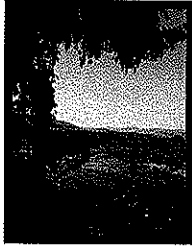
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Strickland", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

TONY STRICKLAND
Senator, 19th District

TS: sp

Cc: Theresa Lubin



VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Part of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County

February 22, 2011

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

*Re: Ojai Valley Trail fish barrier removal project
(File number 10-061-01), March 17, 2011 agenda*

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Ventura River Watershed Council, I am writing to express the Council's strong support for the proposed Conservancy grant to the County of Ventura's Parks Department to help fund the replacement of a culvert crossing with a bridge along the Ojai Valley Trail at the confluence of the Ventura River and San Antonio Creek.

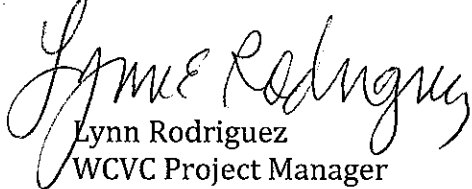
The proposed grant will supply the remaining funding needed to implement this important project, improving both migration and in-stream habitat for endangered southern steelhead, as well as improving public safety along the trail. By removing the keystone passage barrier along San Antonio Creek, the project will improve fish passage to and from the mainstem and open up approximately 15 miles of habitat in the San Antonio Creek Watershed. The bridge will also provide an all-weather crossing over the creek, improving user safety on the Ojai Valley Trail during high flows and minimizing storm-related closures of this important commuter route along the river.

The proposed project will help implement important objectives for the Ventura River Watershed which are included in the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). That plan emphasizes protecting and restoring ecosystem functions in the watershed by restoring habitat connectivity. One of the principal regional priorities for the Ventura River watershed in the IRWMP is the removal of fish passage barriers. In addition, the proposed project will complement the larger community effort to conserve and enhance the Ventura River Parkway from Ojai to the estuary.

As evidenced by the Council's broad and diverse membership, there is strong community support for this project. We appreciate all the work and funding that the Coastal Conservancy has contributed to habitat and other projects along the Ventura River over the years and ask that you continue that effort by approving the proposed grant to the County of Ventura for this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Rodriguez", written in a cursive style.

Lynn Rodriguez

WCVC Project Manager

On behalf of the Ventura River Watershed Council

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
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FAX (916) 319-2135

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FAX (805) 564-1651
201 E. FOURTH ST., SUITE 209-A
OXNARD, CA 93030
(805) 483-9808
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Assembly California Legislature



PEDRO NAVA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

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CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION
COUNCIL

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

October 29, 2008

Paul Grossgold, Director
General Services Agency
800 South Victoria Ave.
L# 1030
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Grossgold:

As the 35th District member of the Assembly for Ventura County, I would like to offer my support for the County of Ventura's application for funding under the NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Program. These funds are needed by the County in order to make critical improvements to the San Antonio Creek Crossing on the Ojai Valley Trail.

The citizens of this County have enjoyed using this safe and beautiful trail for many years, and have always found it to be a tremendous asset to the County trail system. It offers miles along a completely open and leisurely pathway traveling from the City of Ojai south to Ventura and beyond. The views along the trail are often spectacular and there is plenty of shade and spots to pause and rest should one so choose.

Following the winter storms of 2005 it became clear that the trail had suffered serious damage. A portion of the San Antonio Creek crossing had been washed out taking the equestrian trail and a portion of the bicycle trail with it. The remaining trail portion along this stretch has been reduced to less than 6 feet wide and is now barely wide enough for one horse and rider to pass. The repair of the trail is desperately needed and I urge the award of these grants to the County of Ventura to restore and protect a valuable part of the trails system in Ventura County.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of this project.

Our desire is for you to select this project for funding. We are hopeful that the improvements will soon take place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PN" or "Pedro Nava", written over a horizontal line.

PEDRO NAVA
Assemblymember, 35th District





**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

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STEVE BENNETT
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
(805) 654-2703
FAX: (805) 654-2226
E-mail: steve.bennett@ventura.org

October 29, 2008

Paul Grossgold, Director
General Services Agency
800 South Victoria Ave. L# 1030
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Support for the County of Ventura's Application for Funding under the NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Program

Dear Mr. Grossgold:

As the County Supervisor for the Ventura River watershed, I am please to offer my strong support for the project to replace the Ojai Valley Trail San Antonio Creek crossing. This much needed project will deliver the multiple benefits of improving fish passage on San Antonio Creek, protecting an important recreation and commuter bike trail, and enhancing public interaction with the Creek and River.

San Antonio Creek is the only tributary of the lower Ventura River with year-round flow and is an extremely important element of Southern Steelhead habitat. The existing creek crossing is an identified passage impediment, and the proposed project will eliminate this impediment.

The Ojai Valley trail is an important recreation and commuter bicycle trail, and the proposed project will protect it from the frequent wash-outs and closures experienced at this location. A more permanent protection of the trail will not only enhance trail use, but will reduce construction work in the creek and river channel.

Lastly, the Ojai Valley Trail is the primary mode of public contact with the Ventura River, and at the crossing, with San Antonio Creek. People are often observed stopped at the crossing to admire the riparian environment, and the proposed project will assure that this interaction can continue.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Bennett" clearly legible.

Steve Bennett
Supervisor First District





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA
GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

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KATHY I. LONG
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT
(805) 654-2276
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(800) 660-5474 EXT. 6542276
E-mail: kathy.long@ventura.org

October 28, 2008

Paul Grossgold
Director
General Services Agency
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Grossgold:

As the 3rd District Supervisor for Ventura County, I would like to offer my support for the County of Ventura's application for funding under the NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Program. These funds are needed by the County in order to make critical improvements to the San Antonio Creek Crossing on the Ojai Valley Trail.

The citizens of this County have enjoyed using this safe and beautiful trail for many years, and have always found it to be a tremendous asset to the County trail system. It offers miles along a completely open and leisurely pathway traveling from the City of Ojai south to Ventura and beyond. The views along the trail are often spectacular and there is plenty of shade and spots to pause and rest.

Following the winter storms of 2005 it became clear that damage had occurred to the trail. A portion of the San Antonio Creek crossing had been washed out taking the equestrian trail and a portion of the bicycle trail with it. The remaining trail portion along this stretch has been reduced to less than 6 feet wide and is now barely wide enough for one horse and rider to pass. The repair of the trail is desperately needed and we urge the award of these grants to the County of Ventura to restore and protect a valuable part of the trails system in Ventura County.

Again, I am in full support of the application for this important project, and I am pleased to add my name as a supporter.

Sincerely,


Kathy Long
Supervisor, Third District

THE OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY

Working to protect the Ojai Valley's future—today



October 27, 2008

Board of Directors

J. Roger Essick,
President

Jan Blakslee

Victoria Breen

Stefanie Coeler

Jim Combs

Jesse Grantham

Cari Guerrero

Paula Power

Larry Rose

Kira Ryder

Barbara Washburn

Paul Grossgold
Director
General Services Agency
800 South Victoria Ave.
L# 1030
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Grossgold:

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) would like to offer our support for the County of Ventura's application for funding under the NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Program. These funds are needed by the County in order to make critical improvements to the San Antonio Creek crossing on the Ojai Valley Trail.

This crossing is just north of OVLC's Confluence property, which is contiguous to the Trail, and just south of a planned property acquisition now in escrow, also contiguous to the Trail. As OVLC's mission involves preserving open space for wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and scenic values, improvements to the Ojai Valley Trail that enhance recreational experiences and provide passage for migrating fish, particularly southern steelhead, are strongly supported by our organization. We also support these improvements as a neighboring landowner.

Staff

Fred Fox, Executive
Director

Stevie Adams

Rick Bisaccia

Sherry Doyle

Sheri Mayta

Lynn Malone

Derek Poultney

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project.

Sincerely,
Fred L. Fox

Fred L. Fox
Executive Director

Tax ID#77-0169682



Channel Islands Bicycle Club
PO Box 6481
Oxnard, CA 93031

24 October 2008

Paul Grossgold
Director
General Services Agency
800 South Victoria Ave.
L# 1030
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Grossgold:

I am writing on behalf of the Channel Islands Bicycle Club (CIBC). CIBC has over 300 members and we are very strong supporters of the application by the County of Ventura for funding under the NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Program.

The NOAA funds are needed by the County to make critical improvements to the San Antonio Creek crossing on the Ojai Valley Trail. The trail is frequently closed at San Antonio Creek due to flooding or washouts. Because this crossing is midway between Ventura and Ojai and there is no reasonable alternate route, it results in a virtual shutting down of bicycle traffic between the two cities.

Numerous cyclists, including the Channel Islands Bicycle Club, are regular users of the Ojai Valley Trail. Prior to the completion of the trail, there were no safe cycling routes along the Ventura River valley between Ventura and Ojai. Nonetheless, cyclists were regular users of the narrow 2 lane roads that connect the two cities. The result was dangerous for both cyclists and motorists. The cyclists exacerbated the already poor conditions on the roadway.

The completion of the Ojai Valley Trail has had several remarkable results. First, the cyclists left the roadways and are now using the Ojai Valley Trail. This has improved conditions for both cyclists and motorists. Second, many

more cyclists now feel comfortable riding between Ventura and Ojai. In the past, only experienced and brave road cyclists would venture out on a bike to travel in the Ventura River valley. It was just too dangerous. The completion of the Ojai Valley Trail has changed all that. It is now the place where families go out and cycle together. Tourists are drawn to the area by the opportunity to safely bike for up to 30 miles roundtrip through a beautiful river valley.

The Ojai Valley Trail is a very busy place. On weekdays, the trail is a commuting route; particularly for kids and teachers going to school. On weekends, the Trail is used by large groups of recreational cyclists.

A large number of charity events rely on the Ojai Valley Trail. I have personally participated in runs, walks, and bicycle rides that incorporate the Ojai Valley Trail in their route. CIBC sponsors an annual bicycle ride that attracts over 1,700 riders. The Ojai Valley Trail is where our ride starts and finishes.

The Ojai Valley Trail provides access to the beautiful Ventura River valley. This valley has very interesting geology, history, and natural resources. The government is undertaking several restoration projects on the river to restore native vegetation and restore the once numerous populations of steelhead. The river valley provides habitat for a variety of birds. These features mean that the Ojai Valley Trail is more than just a place for transit or recreation. The Trail provides a unique opportunity to expose the general public to our natural and cultural heritage and to discuss how resources should be managed.

We are strong supporters of this application to the NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Program. CIBC looks forward to working with the County to support the repair of the San Antonio Creek Crossing.

Thank you for the good work you have been doing to improve recreational opportunities that support safe routes for cyclists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Faulkner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Faulkner
President

Santa Barbara Flyfishers
650 Via Hierba
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

October 30, 2008

Paul Grossgold
Director
General Services Agency
800 South Victoria Ave.
L# 1030
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Grossgold:

Santa Barbara Flyfishers would like to offer our support for the County of Ventura's application for funding under the NOAA Open Rivers Initiative Program. These funds are needed by the County in order to make critical improvements to the San Antonio Creek crossing on the Ojai Valley Trail.

Our organization is primarily interested in the direct benefit gained by the removal of the fish barrier at this crossing towards the recovery of better habitat for the Southern Steelhead.

Sincerely,

Lew Riffle
Conservation Chair for the Santa Barbara Flyfishers
Member of the Tri County Fish Team